

Notes on South African marine Mollusca
4. A new variety of *Pecten sulcicostatus* ¹⁾

by

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In February, 1961, the late Mr. J. S. HUTT of Port Alfred drew my attention to a peculiar variety of *Pecten sulcicostatus* G. B. Sowerby II, 1842, in his collection. A careful examination revealed it to be an undescribed variety of the species, considered worth naming on account of its characteristic features.

Pecten sulcicostatus occurs along the SE coast of South Africa from False Bay (vide BARNARD and False Bay check list) to Port Alfred; it has been trawled at depths from 25-45 fathoms. SOWERBY (1892) referred to a record from the Natal coast by DUNKER; very probably this is erroneous. Odd valves may be found on the beaches, though never very common and mostly in poor condition.

Pecten sulcicostatus Sowerby

Pl. 1 fig. 4

1842, p. 47, pl. XIII, figs. 35-36;

1892, pp. 66, 89, pl. V, figs. 97-98 (*Pecten capensis* Gray, MS.)

var. *casa* var. nov.

Pl. 1 figs. 1-3

The new variety differs from the typical *Pecten sulcicostatus* in the absence of grooves on the ribs and on the spaces in between on both valves, except for one or two central grooves on the ribs of the convex valve. The flat valve of paratype 2 has a few grooves on some of the ribs. On the whole the shells are not as convex as those of the typical form; also the ribs on the convex valve are flatter than those of the typical form. The differences are clearly shown in figs. 3-4.

The number of ribs and the measurements may be compared in the following table:

¹⁾ Notes on South African marine Mollusca 3, vide Basteria Vol. 18, No. 4, pp. 49-53, 1954.

Variety	Specimen	Number of ribs on convex valve	Number of ribs on flat valve	Measurements in mm
<i>casa</i>	holotype	16	16	74×66
<i>casa</i>	paratype 1	17	17	84×75
<i>casa</i>	paratype 2	17	17	85×78
typical	off Cape Infanta	14	13	108×98
typical	off Cape Recife	15	14	100×87
typical	Algoa Bay	15	14	99×85
typical	off Cape Infanta	14	13	98×85
typical	off Cape Infanta	13	13	95×86
typical	off Bird Island	16	14	94×85
typical	off Cape Infanta	15	14	83×77

The typical specimens belong to the collection of the Port Elizabeth Museum and have all been trawled off the SE coast of the Cape Province, South Africa.

Pattern of the new variety as indicated in figs. 1-2. The convex valve is pale brownish orange with reddish-brown flames, while the flat valve is dark reddish-brown with a few paler spots. This pattern is also known in the typical form. Paratype 1 has hardly any flames on the convex valve, while paratype 2 looks more or less like the holotype.

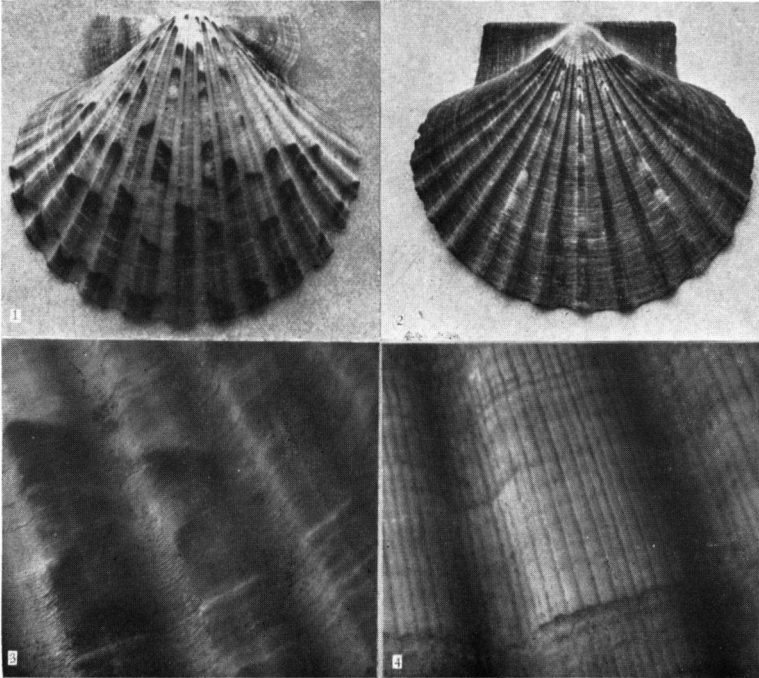
The holotype and paratypes were trawled alive off Port Alfred and have been preserved in the JOHN S. HUTT collection in the Albany Museum, Grahamstown (C.P.).

I have much pleasure in naming this striking variety after the late Mr. HUTT, a well-known South African amateur conchologist (Lat. *casa* = hut).

REFERENCES

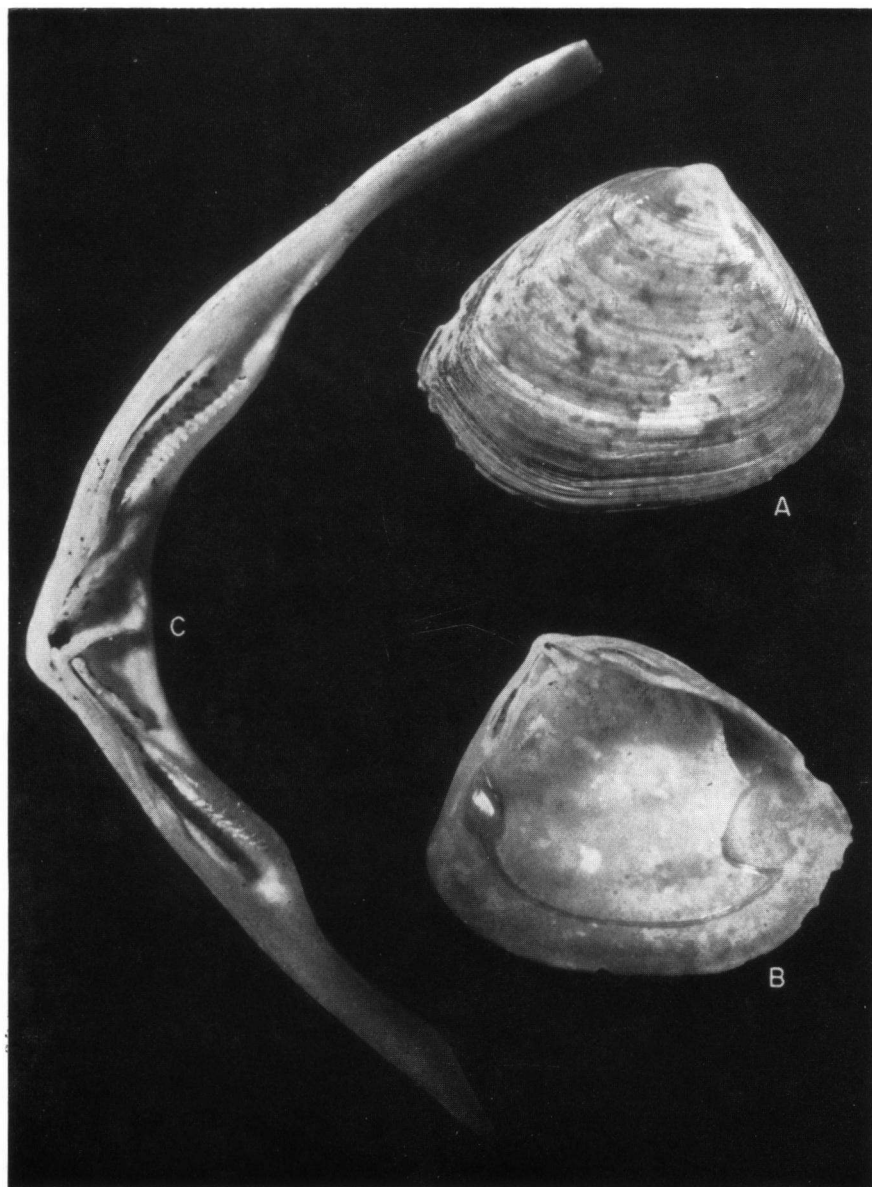
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PLATE 1



Figs. 1-4. *Pecten sulcicostatus* Sow. 1. Var. *casa* var. nov., holotype, convex valve. 2. Do., flat valve. 3. Do., detail of surface structure of convex valve (highly enlarged). 4. Typical form, detail of surface structure of convex valve (highly enlarged). Photographs courtesy K. R. Foden.

PLATE 2



Figs. A-C. „*Spisula*” *bartingi* Spaink, right valve. A: exterior, $\times 7$. B: interior, $\times 7$. C: hinge, $\times 18$.